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# Peacebuilding Commission

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**Peacebuilding Commission**
**Second session**
**Sierra Leone configuration**

**Summary record of the 2nd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 12 October 2006, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Gaspar Martins ..... (Angola)

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Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.*

**Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone** (*continued*)
(PBC/2/SIL/CRP.1)

*National action and international support*

1. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) emphasized the need for continued international support to the security sector to ensure an environment that was conducive to peacebuilding activities. Continued support should be provided to the military, for example through the International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT), a British-led programme that also benefited from the involvement of other international actors. The police force also needed assistance, as it would be put to the test in the upcoming elections, which would be the first democratic elections to be held in the country without the presence of United Nations troops.

2. The Government's new security machinery — the Office of National Security (ONS) and the Central Intelligence and Security Unit (CISU) — for the coordination of the operations of the various security organs also needed support in order to improve the country's preparedness and ability to detect early signs of trouble.

3. A National Human Rights Commission had been set up, but lacked the funding to adequately monitor the human rights situation in the country and fully implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Sierra Leone (TRC). A National Commission for Social Action had also been set up, with the responsibility of providing reparations to war victims. While the disbursement of funding for that purpose had been delayed, that matter would soon be resolved.

4. When donor countries provided aid to a fragile State such as Sierra Leone, they must take into account its post-conflict status. The humanitarian assistance and budgetary support from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had ceased and support had not been timely in crucial areas such as shelter and basic agricultural inputs. During the transitional period, infrastructure support for electricity, roads and telephone service had been lacking, impeding income-generating activities and the ability to attract foreign direct investment. Regional stability was also important, and the situation in neighbouring Liberia and Guinea affected Sierra Leone.

5. The Government had recently launched a youth employment scheme designed to create 100,000 jobs over the next year and ensure an environment conducive to handling other societal issues. An effort was being made to involve young people in cultural activities. There was also support for literacy and non-formal education for about 5,000 youths, and for their participation in decision-making processes at the local level. A national youth policy was being formulated.

6. To enhance the justice and security sector, the Government was seeking alternative dispute resolution measures and trying to improve the judiciary's geographical coverage of cases and its fast-tracking of the caseload backlog. The Government also intended to relieve prison overcrowding by adding new prison locations and expanding existing facilities, so as to improve the security atmosphere in the capital. It was striving to improve coordination between the police, courts and prisons. In that regard, it was endeavouring to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and creating an environment conducive to enhancing the democratic process. Reforms were under way in the judiciary, media and public services, and a national procurement unit was being set up to enhance accountability and ensure good governance. Other priorities included reform of the civil service and public services in particular.

7. **Mr. Angelo** (Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)) said that the goal of the Government of Sierra Leone was to address the root causes of conflict, as identified in the TRC report. The report's key recommendations had inspired the agenda of the National Human Rights Commission, which would need significant support from the international community in order to effectively carry out its functions.

8. The policy framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Peace Consolidation Strategy needed to be integrated in such a way as to strike a balance between the development, social and human rights dimension and the security and economic dimension. There was an urgent need to improve implementation capacity in that regard. The partnership between Sierra Leone and the international community needed to be strengthened for strong development assistance and policy dialogue.

9. In the security sector, the armed forces needed to be modernized, and the police force should be better trained and receive logistical support, particularly in terms of crowd control during the upcoming election, strengthening airport and border controls and countering drug smuggling. The Office of National Security played an important role and its coordinating function needed to be reinforced. There was an immediate need to improve effective access to justice, by enhancing the performance of the justice system and the coordination among the police, judiciary and the corrections department. More magistrates were needed in the provinces to handle the large number of pending cases.

10. The newly established National Electoral Commission would require technical assistance in preparing the upcoming elections. The Political Parties' Registration Commission must be properly equipped and staffed. Also, the decentralization process should be accelerated, and the relationships between the local councils and chieftaincy administrations better defined. The youth employment scheme, with a focus on youth empowerment, should be strengthened, and young people given appropriate guidance to prevent them from being a threat to stability.

11. The revival of the Mano River Union was a welcome development. Stability in its three member countries was crucial, as was their ability to mobilize external support. Additional assistance was required to control small arms, for instance through the Mano River Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

12. Lastly, the four areas that the Government had identified as priority areas for peacebuilding should include a stronger gender dimension.

13. **Mr. Valenzuela** (European Commission) agreed that it was important to strike the right balance in donor assistance, so that certain needs were not neglected.

14. The Peacebuilding Commission must bring added value to Sierra Leone's efforts. In developing a peacebuilding strategy, it was important to take the regional dimension into account, in terms both of its positive aspects and of the risks and dangers it posed. Sustained political commitment was needed from all stakeholders. The Government of Sierra Leone had identified appropriate priorities. The focus should be on developing civil society, consolidating democracy and ensuring good governance.

15. Initiatives to create employment, particularly for young people, were extremely important and should be implemented as soon as possible. Capacity-building was also important for the State, local government and civil society.

16. The 2007 legislative elections would be a fundamental test for Sierra Leone. The European Commission was prepared to provide assistance amounting to €8 million, and an observer mission to oversee the elections, if Sierra Leone so requested. Economic governance was also important, for example for the management of the country's natural resources.

17. The European Commission had worked actively with the Government of Sierra Leone through programmes dealing with governance, infrastructure, budgetary support and emergency assistance. Sierra Leone's absorption of commonly agreed assistance had been excellent.

18. The European Development Fund for 2008-2013, with provisional funds amounting to €193 million, offered considerable possibilities for dealing with the issues identified. Sierra Leone would also benefit from the Fund's programmes for West Africa.

19. Coordination and support from donors was very important. Information flow was crucial for effective coordination and it was useful that the Peacebuilding Support Office had posted donor activities online. One important coordination initiative was the joint project for development cooperation in Sierra Leone that the European Commission had been implementing with the United Kingdom Department for International Development. A joint strategy paper was being drafted with the Government of Sierra Leone, drawing on the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Cotonou Agreement, and it was hoped that other European Union members and civil society in Sierra Leone would also contribute to the paper.

20. **Ms. Mungwa** (African Union) said that it was disappointing that two important detailed policy framework documents produced by the African Union, the continental Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the African Youth Charter, had not been mentioned. The documents represented the views of the whole African continent, including civil society, the countries, and the African

Union, and they were highly recommended to the attention of the Peacebuilding Commission. The documents gave clear answers to some of the questions raised in the background document and contained strategies developed in Africa on how to address those issues.

21. Having realized that post-conflict reconstruction was often incoherent or implemented in a way which did not take the local environment and norms into account, the African Union would be providing strong leadership continent-wide on post-conflict reconstruction to achieve national ownership and leadership of the process and regional coordination of partners and donors. The African Union was developing a ministerial committee within the Peace and Security Council to coordinate post-conflict reconstruction.

22. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan) said that priority areas included the presidential and national elections scheduled for July 2007 and strengthening the rule of law and good governance, as well as small arms collection and youth employment programmes. Quick-impact projects should be identified and implemented so that people would feel empowered. Another priority was rural community development.

23. **Mr. Løvald** (Norway) said that a number of interesting comments had been made on the importance of the private sector and investment, reform of the justice system, including improved access to the judiciary, combating corruption and implementing recommendations from the truth and reconciliation committee, enhancing the delivery of public services, gender equality and involvement of women and young people in development at all levels and creating links to resource mobilization frameworks. In that regard, the African Development Bank was deserving of particular attention. It would be interesting to hear from the representative of Sierra Leone what types of quick-impact projects he thought would be valuable and effective.

24. **Mr. Majoor** (Netherlands) said that the Peacebuilding Commission must maintain an approach which was both integrated and focused. The Commission should look at what was being done by other organizations and concentrate on areas which were neglected or underfunded or which the Government of Sierra Leone or other stakeholders considered to be urgent.

25. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) stressed the need to take into account the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

26. Sierra Leone had been one of the first victims of the war in Liberia, which had had disastrous consequences for the entire subregion. It was necessary to determine what needed to be done to keep war from returning and to make peace and stability realities. People who had been mutilated, women who had been raped and children who had served as cannon fodder were looking to the Government for help. Their immediate needs must be met and hope created through jobs.

27. **Mr. Melrose** (United States of America) said that it was important not to lose momentum and to build on progress already made. Since disenfranchised youth had contributed to the problems from the 1990s, emphasis on assisting them was significant. Such assistance should not be limited to employment but should include participation in social and political life. Existing programmes that were effective should not be dropped in favour of something new, but should rather be assisted and continued.

28. **Ms. Gallardo Hernández** (El Salvador) noted that the alarm signal of threats to peace had already been sounded by the conflicts that had emerged in the context of efforts to create a lasting peace. The Government and civil society must work together in Sierra Leone itself. New actors in the peacebuilding process, young people and women, wished to hear what dividends of peace they would enjoy. From her own country's experience, security was a serious problem that needed to be dealt with through an integrated strategy and in an ongoing manner. Post-conflict situations often engendered new phenomena that had not necessarily been envisaged in the political peace agreements, such as trafficking in small arms.

29. Sierra Leone needed to change a culture of conflict into a culture of peace and stability. Needs must be identified for donors on the basis of national agreement on a plan for lasting development. As regards the parallel financing mechanisms mentioned, a proliferation of requests was normal in a post-conflict situation. Of course, there was a need for a legislative framework to ensure that the process was conducted in an orderly manner. While donors sometimes expressed a preference for working with non-governmental organizations, she understood the authorities' concern

about the possibility that a parallel system might emerge. What mattered was that a dialogue should be established, following which the project would be developed by the Government, with the participation of civil society.

30. Of particular importance was the development of projects for youth employment. In a parallel situation in El Salvador, many young people had left the country, while others had joined gangs with regional connections, posing a threat to civil peace. Her country had embarked on a programme of education for peace, in particular a programme on a culture of peace, which it was willing to share with Sierra Leone. The Commission needed to determine to what extent the matter was of concern to the Government and people and give advice, based on experience, in support of the country's peacebuilding efforts. The peacebuilding process did not involve financial aid alone; it also had intangible aspects. Her delegation would set out its ideas systematically in order to provide added value to the achievements of the Sierra Leone process.

31. **Mr. Sardenberg** (Brazil) supported the priorities set out by the Sierra Leonean authorities. He agreed that the international community's involvement should focus from the outset on long-term development and that excessive conditions constituted an obstacle to peacebuilding. Development and security were not successive events, but basic components of the same task. National ownership must be the guiding principle, and efficiency its supporting principle. It was important to identify non-financial forms of cooperation, which would permit cooperation with other developing countries, operating in a different way from traditional donors.

32. Efforts to strengthen the civil service should be closely linked to the democratic process, and the State should show itself to be the provider of fundamental services. It was also important to avoid duplication of effort in areas such as youth employment, enhanced democracy, and capacity-building in the civil service, so as not to squander resources.

33. He would like to know how the youth employment strategy related to the rest of the economy; with regard to security and justice, how one could distinguish between crimes committed for differing motives; and whether, where the strengthening of democracy was concerned, the cleavages that had originally caused the war still existed in the new political system.

34. **Mr. Enarsson** (Sweden) echoed the views of the Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University that high economic growth reduced the risk of relapse into conflict and that, in the year preceding an election year, the risk of a relapse into conflict was lower, while in an election year that risk was doubled. Private sector development should be at the core of economic growth and an enabling environment would encourage more private sector investment and entrepreneurship. In the agricultural sector, microcredit and support to farmers were essential in order to enhance youth employment and income generation.

35. Many Sierra Leonean women, who had suffered the worst atrocities during the war, had developed a sense of independence as a result. Such efforts should be strengthened, so that women were seen not as victims but as agents of development. The 2007 elections should be a major focus of the Commission's work during the coming year. Support to enhance the capacity of the Electoral Commission and of Parliament would be crucial in that regard. That aspect had not been mentioned in the report, but had been raised by the delegation of Sierra Leone.

36. **Mr. Kau** (Fiji) noted that good work was already being done on the ground, and the Commission's role should be to determine where gaps existed and try to fill them, as well as enhancing existing mechanisms. Any international partnership on development in Sierra Leone must be based on its national peacebuilding strategy and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) objectives, which should be consolidated and integrated in order to ensure that the discussions focused on those two documents. Help was also needed with the Government budgetary process; in addition, direct budgetary support by Governments, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions required serious consideration as the Government needed ready cash.

37. Good governance and policy issues had been considered, but poor physical infrastructure should also be addressed. That required attention to coordination and balancing at the same time. The follow-up mechanism needed to be addressed, ensuring continuous monitoring of progress, as well as quick-win programmes and projects; it would also be useful

if major programmes in need of support were reported and a decision taken on their follow-up. The Commission must not lose sight of Sierra Leone, in the course of its consideration of the situation of other countries.

38. **Mr. Abdul Azeez** (Sri Lanka) said that Sierra Leone was facing economic and developmental challenges, and commended the Government for the measures it had taken and the donors for their support of the Government. Donors should support, not supplant, Sierra Leone's efforts. All the sectors mentioned by the delegation of Sierra Leone as requiring support called for human resource development and capacity-building. Government efforts to foster democracy, reform the judiciary and improve governance were to be encouraged. In that regard, priority should be given to the priorities identified by the Government, which would include support for civil service reform.

39. **Mr. McKee** (Ireland) welcomed the fact that the peacebuilding mechanism enabled a range of in-country partners to take part and noted that consensus had emerged on some key issues, including youth employment, capacity-building and security and justice. Other areas had been mentioned, such as inequality, particularly of women, as few resources had been allocated to that issue. The relationship of the Millennium Development Goals to overall strategies needed to be clarified. The critical challenge in the decentralization process was to define the respective roles of traditional chiefs and local Government councils.

40. He agreed on the need for effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms to follow up implementation of the recommendations made, and supported the idea of stakeholder involvement. Peacebuilding processes involved a broad range of actors and it was vital that they should all feel included.

41. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) agreed that all stakeholders should be involved. Guinea firmly supported the efforts being made in Sierra Leone in all areas, not least because they would build peace in a specific area of West Africa. Guinea maintained good relations with Sierra Leone, and supported implementation of the peacebuilding programme as presented. Aid should focus on the established national priorities and programmes, but there was also need for flexibility so that Sierra Leone could benefit from assistance and financial aid.

42. Guinea's border disputes with other African countries had always been settled amicably; he hoped the same would occur with Sierra Leone. The two countries had already held talks, and a technical matter that had arisen was being addressed by two experts, one British and the other French. The dispute by no means constituted a crisis between the two countries. He assured all partners of Guinea's commitment to do its utmost to settle its differences with Sierra Leone.

43. Guinea had been made vulnerable by economic and financial problems and by cross-border attacks from Sierra Leone and Liberia, against which it had been forced to defend itself. However, Guinea, which stood at the epicentre of the crisis, was a partner for peace: it received more than one million refugees and used its own resources to meet their needs. It now needed help from the international community in order to benefit from the peace dividends.

44. In conclusion, he invited the Commission to participate in a subregional conference on peace and security to be hosted by Guinea the following month in order to attempt to build peace in the Mano River Union Region.

45. **Mr. Faaborg-Andersen** (Denmark) welcomed the high-level and active participation of the delegation of Sierra Leone in the discussions and the country's firm ownership of the peacebuilding process. He also encouraged the involvement of non-governmental organizations in post-conflict situations, as in many instances they were the only available means of delivering services. Care must be taken not to create parallel structures of delivery. There was also a need to integrate NGOs into government delivery structures. Furthermore, NGOs and donors alike must intervene within the overall development frameworks established by the Government.

46. The Commission, for its part, must avoid creating another layer of development bureaucracy or duplicating other forums, including the consultative group meetings. It must also avoid micromanagement at the headquarters level, focusing on areas where it could add true value and where there was an immediate threat to stability and the peace consultation process. There was also a need to identify needs and set priorities as well as funding gaps and to draw up

matrices showing which donors had committed funds for those areas.

47. His delegation welcomed the Chairman's draft summary and fully supported the four key areas of assistance suggested by the Government of Sierra Leone. There was still room for further elaboration and prioritization, however, within those areas. For example, while idle young persons posed a possible threat to stability, they were also a potential resource. Youth employment and youth empowerment should go hand-in-hand. Young people should be recognized as capable citizens and drawn into mainstream politics. Further development of the National Youth Advisory Council was therefore needed. Efforts must also be made to ensure that political youth groups would be heard in the lead-up to the elections in 2007.

48. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations should be implemented as part of a credible peace process. The Peacebuilding Commission could assist in determining how the recommendations might fit into existing donor support frameworks and which specific initiatives needed to be implemented as a matter of priority, including the alternative dispute mechanisms mentioned by the delegation of Sierra Leone. Lastly, there was a need to incorporate a gender perspective in all peacebuilding efforts, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

49. **Mr. Xie** Yunliang (China) said that the target countries considered by the Commission should play a leading role in the peacebuilding process, and it was crucial to listen to their views. The international community, including the Commission, should not impose its views on those countries, whose ideas should be respected in the Commission's final recommendations. NGOs and civil society played an important role in post-conflict reconstruction, especially in the area of humanitarian relief, gender equality and human rights. They should, however, coordinate their activities and increase their interaction with the Governments concerned rather than act separately from them. The Commission had a role to play in coordinating international efforts. A major challenge would be to channel scattered resources from donor countries, international financial institutions and others and formulate an integrated and consistent reconstruction strategy.

50. **Mr. Idoko** (Nigeria) recalled the human and material sacrifices made by his country and other members of ECOWAS to ensure peace in Sierra Leone and expressed his delegation's gratitude to those who had made generous pledges to the Peacebuilding Fund.

51. His delegation supported the four key priority areas of assistance identified by the Sierra Leonean authorities. Unemployment was a critical area which affected the youth in the entire subregion and those who had had access to weapons. The young people concerned were being urged to change their way of life for a better one. There was therefore a need not only for job creation but also training in the skills needed for young persons to be self-employed and to become employers themselves.

52. With respect to the forthcoming elections in Sierra Leone, experience in Africa had shown that elections had the potential for leading to conflict. There was a need therefore for training of electoral officers and political party actors and increasing awareness about issues of democracy and free and fair elections, especially among youth.

53. The linkages between short-, medium- and long-term measures, each of which had an impact on the other, should be recognized. Any measures put in place in Sierra Leone should take into account the entire subregion, including the Mano River area and the ECOWAS countries. If peacebuilding was not properly managed in the short term, the entire subregion would be affected in the medium and long term.

54. The priorities in the Chairman's summary should be listed in the following order: (1) social and youth empowerment and employment; (2) capacity-building; (3) justice and security sector reform; and (4) consolidating democracy and good governance. The Commission must indeed focus less on paper and more on action, especially in the light of the broad agreement on the priorities set by Sierra Leone.

55. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) supported the call for clear short-, medium- and long-term goals. There were some quick wins in the short-term category, for example with respect to youth employment, vocational training, microcredit facilities for small enterprises and self-employment, with particular attention given to the agricultural sector, as well as the promotion of sports activities and physical education, efforts to increase political participation, and HIV/AIDS and drug abuse awareness campaigns.

56. Justice and security sector development and enhancement of public services delivery could be combined under a generic heading such as institutional and human capacity-building. The focus should be on technical and financial support for public service reform during the initial launching of the Senior Executive Service. There was a need to forge a partnership between the Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone to provide training and capacity-building for judges and military and police personnel. Another objective could be to provide technical and financial support for efforts to promote democracy, with particular focus on the essential requirements for the lead-up to the upcoming elections. Overall, his delegation supported the Chairman's summary. The ordering of the priorities should be left for the Government of Sierra Leone to decide. The impression should not be given, however, that any one priority was more important than another. They all should be addressed in parallel and deserved equal treatment by the Commission.

57. **Mr. Muñoz** (Chile), agreed on the importance of the electoral process, which would constitute a foundation for long-term stability. Technical support for that process should therefore be a priority. Concerning youth, there was a need for programmes to promote employment through reinsertion and reintegration of young former soldiers. Sierra Leoneans must be able to perceive the dividends of peace. Combating the trafficking in small arms and light weapons also deserved priority. Disarmament must be pursued in conjunction with development efforts. Strengthening public institutions would also help to promote stability and democracy in the country. He agreed with other delegations on the importance of police reform and implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

58. Although the Peacebuilding Commission was a specific instrument for promoting peace and stability, it could never serve as an alternative to the international financial organizations and community of donors but had a complementary role. The Commission must help to channel resources into quick-impact projects and stimulate sustainable international assistance. As responsibility for development lay with the national authorities themselves, the Commission's role was to coordinate the efforts of various actors. Lastly, civil society and NGOs had an indispensable role to play in the peacebuilding process.

59. **Ms. Mujuma** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the statements by the delegation of Sierra Leone had been informative, particularly regarding the threats to peace. The statements had sent a message on the importance of timing, whether it was a matter of priorities, choosing programmes or implementation and highlighted the need to act with urgency.

60. **Ms. Johnson** (African Development Bank) said that future action might include four steps. The first would be mapping of interventions and identification of gaps to be filled in the countries. Donors did not always have matrices, and they did not always cover security and other pillars of peacebuilding. The second step would include prioritization and sequencing of actions to fill those gaps. There was also a need for timelines and for a limited number of benchmarks. The third step would involve determining the costs of those actions and the means of financing them. There were sources other than the Peacebuilding Fund which could be used. The fourth step would be to establish a division of labour between all the international actors and identify instruments to use. The last step was being taken in some cases among the donors on social and economic issues, but security and political processes were often neglected. Such a methodology could be developed further by the Secretariat and used in further discussions on country situations.

61. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) said that his delegation appreciated the summary prepared under the Chairman's guidance. The title of the document should be revised to read "Chairman's conclusions and recommendations".

62. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that the comments made by the Commission were proof of the ample good will on the part of the international community for Sierra Leone to move forward. He also expressed his delegation's gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations country team, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and civil society for the cooperation which it had received at the current meeting and throughout the entire process of developing the country-specific strategy for peacebuilding. His Government had no major objections to the Chairman's summary. It supported the proposal to reorder the priorities as suggested by the representative of Nigeria.

63. While almost every aspect of peacebuilding in Sierra Leone was a priority, there were quick-impact projects which would affect the lives of the majority of Sierra Leoneans, especially public works schemes to employ young persons involving sanitation, roads and agriculture. For example, the Government was endeavouring to revive the oil palm crop, which had been a major crop in Sierra Leone, and would need to hire a large number of young workers. Microcredit and microfinance would also have an immediate impact on peacebuilding efforts. The rural areas were devoid of economic activity and there was little cash in circulation. Microcredit was therefore crucial for igniting such activity. Another quick impact measure involved funds for reparations and compensation to war victims to help them to stabilize their lives.

64. The conference room paper (PBC/2/SIL/CRP.1) was comprehensive and addressed almost every issue, including the priorities outlined in the Improved Governance and Accountability Pact. It was important to highlight more clearly, however, the forthcoming elections and the need to support the National Electoral Commission.

65. **Mr. Nascentes da Silva** (Brazil) said that it was too early to reach conclusions and recommendations. The document should therefore be entitled "Chairman's summary".

66. **The Chairman** said that the summary did not yet take into account the comments made at the present meeting. It highlighted the important achievements made in restoring peace and stability in Sierra Leone and promoting post-conflict recovery. Participants had reinforced the Government's view of the specific critical challenges that impeded the consolidation of peace, including social and youth empowerment and employment; consolidating democracy and good governance; justice and security sector reform; and capacity-building. The Commission encouraged the United Nations, the World Bank, IMF and other donors to ensure that the allocation of resources and the activities undertaken reflected the peacebuilding priorities identified and the initiatives of the Government of Sierra Leone, including through its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Furthermore, Sierra Leone was declared eligible to benefit from the Peacebuilding Fund.

67. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) asked whether the summary would be circulated as a document of the Commission. He suggested that the document should refer to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and to the need to avoid parallel mechanisms for disbursement of aid. Lastly, his delegation noted that the funding requirement for the four priorities identified amounted to some $40 million. He said that the document might therefore reflect the relatively low amount of funding required.

68. **The Chairman** recalled that the Commission would be meeting again and engaging in technical discussions on those matters. It would be difficult to reflect them at present. The issue concerning the elections raised by the delegation of Sierra Leone should, however, be reflected.

69. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation was satisfied with the statement in the summary calling on donors to ensure that their assistance was in line with national priorities. He had not heard any references to funding at the current meeting and wondered about the source of the figures cited. He understood that the process was ongoing and that the Commission would embark on a second stage before the end of the year, when more in-depth discussions would take place.

70. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Commission wished to adopt his summary.

71. *It was so decided.*

72. **The Chairman** said he would also take it that the Commission wished to advise the Secretary-General that Sierra Leone should be considered eligible to benefit from the Peacebuilding Fund in accordance with the Fund's terms of reference.

73. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.*